CONGRATULATING REBECCA BUCK AS A FINALIST FOR THE 2024 EDUCATION MINNESOTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. ANGIE CRAIG
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Rebecca Buck on being a finalist for Education Minnesota’s 2024 Teacher of the Year.

Rebecca has taught in District 191 for twelve years, being recognized as the 2020 recipient of the district’s Spirit of Excellence Award, which honors employees who exemplify the best of what District 191 strives for. As an elementary school music teacher, she is an inspiration to her community and the students she works with. Her dedication and passion shine through the connections she makes with her students and their love for music.

Ms. Buck strives to practice and advocate for equitable and inclusive education by recognizing students in her class are represented in the curriculum and have opportunities to share their own cultures with classmates. This recognition by her peers and officials at Education Minnesota is supported by the immense appreciation for her contribution to public service in my district.

I am honored to recognize Rebecca Buck today as a model for meaningful educators, and I thank her for the work she is doing to create community in her classrooms.

ILLEGITIMATE WAR CRIMINAL PUTIN

HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, having the extraordinary opportunity to visit the people of Russia beginning in 1990 from St. Petersburg to Moscow to Novosibirsk to Chelyabinsk (which is the Sister City of my state capital, Columbia), I believe facts reveal that war criminal Putin’s presidency is non-binding and not a direct or legitimate representation of the Russian people.

The inspiring people of Russia deserve better than endless corruption and dictatorship. War criminal Putin has shown time and time again that he is willing to subvert the law and the will of the people by continuing to enrich himself and his cronies. The United States should make it clear that it will not recognize desperate attempts by Putin to cling to power and continue murderous activities, enriching oligarchs across the globe.

I have introduced bipartisan resolutions with Tennessee Congressman Steve Cohen noting that the election irregularities that kept Putin in power made his continuation in office illegitimate. In March 2024, H. Res. 1087 stated that “... any attempt by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin to remain in office beyond May 7, 2024, shall warrant non-recognition on the part of the United States.”

Author, professor, and journalist David Satter, a former Financial Times Moscow correspondent and former senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, has documented the basis of overwhelming evidence, the September 1999 apartment bombings which brought Putin to power were carried out by the Russian security services, and that the Russian regime has been illegitimate since the first day of his accession to power.

Satter’s writings in National Review, August 17, 2016, and his book, The Less You Know: Russia’s Road to Terror and Dictatorship Under Yeltsin and Putin (Yale University Press), include the following analysis and perspectives:

“The bombings in the cities of Buynaksk, Moscow, and Volgodonsk killed more than 300 persons and hundreds of others. They were blamed without evidence on Chechen terrorists and used as a pretext to start a new war against the semi-independent republics. When Putin was put in charge of the war his popularity soared, making it possible for him to be elected as Russia’s second post-Soviet president in March 2000. It is clear, however, that what had taken place was the greatest political provocation since the burning of the Reichstag. In an almost unbelievable series of events, Seleznev, the speaker of the Duma and a close Putin associate, announced in the Duma on September 13, 1999, that a building in Volgodonsk had been blown up. The building that had blown up on that day was in Moscow. A building in Volgodonsk was blown up three days later, on September 16, 1999.

On September 19, Vladimir Zhirinovsky, head of the Liberal Democratic party at the time, demanded an explanation from Seleznev on how he had known about the bombing in advance. Zhirinovsky stood at the podium in the Duma and shouted, ‘‘Do you see what is happening in this country? You say an apartment building was blown up three days ago in Volgodonsk! On Thursday, this can be evaluated as a provocation.’’ Seleznev refused to give a response, and Zhirinovsky’s microphone was shut off while continuing to insist on one. In March 2002, Novyiye Investiya, a daily newspaper published in Moscow, Russia, obtained the transcript of Seleznev’s words on September 13, 1999. Which were: ‘‘Here is a communication which they transmit. According to a report from Rostov-on-Don today, this past night, an apartment building was blown up in the city of Volgodonsk.’’ When asked who informed him of the bombing three days in advance, he responded, ‘‘Believe me, not (exiled oligarch Boris) Berezovsky – who had accused Putin of orchestrating the bombing. Seleznev then said that on September 13, 1999, he was referring to an explosion in Volgodonsk on September 15, 1999, that was in reality between criminal gangs and caused no deaths. Even if Seleznev was referring to this explosion on September 15, how was he aware of it two days in advance, on September 13?”

“On September 22, 1999, a fifth bomb was discovered and quickly deactivated in the basement of a building in Ryazan. The bomb was found to be planted by agents of the Russian FSB. On September 24, 1999, Head of the FSB, Nikolai Patrushev, stated that the bomb was a dummy, planted as part of a training exercise in Ryazan. Although, the bomb tested positive for hexogen, the same explosive used in the four successful apartment bombings in Buynaksk, Moscow, and Volgodonsk. Not a single local government agency in Ryazan, including the local branch of the FSB, was informed in advance of the ‘exercise,’ even though Russian law on civil defense requires any exercise in residential areas are planned and confirmed in advance with local officials. For two days, local authorities in Ryazan believed they were dealing with an attempted terrorist attack while official Russian media continued to inform people that an attempted terrorist attack had been averted and Russian air force began the bombing of Grozny, the capital city of the Chechen Republic.

‘‘On February 2002, after three failed motions in the Duma to investigate the Ryazan incident failed due to opposition from the pro-Putin Unity party at the time, demanded an explanation from Seleznev on how he had known about the bombing in advance. Zhirinovsky stood at the podium in the Duma and shouted, ‘‘Do you see what is happening in this country? You say an apartment building was blown up three days ago in Volgodonsk! On Thursday, this can be evaluated as a provocation.’’ Seleznev refused to give a response, and Zhirinovsky’s microphone was shut off while continuing to insist on one. In March 2002, Novyiye Investiya, a daily newspaper published in Moscow, Russia, obtained the transcript of Seleznev’s words on September 13, 1999. Which were: ‘‘Here is a communication which they transmit. According to a report from Rostov-on-Don today, this past night, an apartment building was blown up in the city of Volgodonsk.’’ When asked who informed him of the bombing three days in advance, he responded, ‘‘Believe me, not (exiled oligarch Boris) Berezovsky – who had accused Putin of orchestrating the bombing. Seleznev then said that on September 13, 1999, he was referring to an explosion in Volgodonsk on September 15, 1999, that was in reality between criminal gangs and caused no deaths. Even if Seleznev was referring to this explosion on September 15, how was he aware of it two days in advance, on September 13?”

HONORING RICK AND SUSAN WILCOX FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RICK WILCOX MAGIC THEATER

HON. MARK POCAN
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. POCAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record the following Proclamation Honoring Rick and Susan Wilcox for the 25th Anniversary of the Rick Wilcox Magic Theater:

Whereas Rick Wilcox was intrigued by magic at age 10, began his magic career astonishing guests at a restaurant in Brookfield, Wisconsin during high school, funded his UW-Madison degree with magic shows, and has never stopped pursuing his passion for magic and illusion; Whereas Rick became nationally sought-after for corporate events with his showmanship and quick wit, and while managing

This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
his entertainment business full-time, he married Susan in 1996 who happily became his business partner and eventually agreed to join him on stage.

Whereas Rick and Susan Wilcox, despite the glamour of performing around the world, determined to bring their business home to Wisconsin, and with extraordinary encouragement from their families, purchased and renovated a neglected, unoccupied 550-seat theater in Wisconsin Dells, transforming it into an economic, employment and enchantment engine for the region.

Whereas The Rick Wilcox Magic Theater became the first-of-its-kind when it opened on May 17, 1999: a theater dedicated to the art of magic, entirely owned, operated, and headlined by its namesake.

Whereas Since 1999, as owners and performers, Rick and Susan Wilcox have managed every aspect of their small business: producing and starring in thousands of shows for Midwestern families, hiring hundreds of staff members, maintaining the theater and property, and delighting tens of thousands with their unique on-stage chemistry, and mix of family-friendly comedy and illusion;

Whereas Rick and Susan Wilcox, by unanimous vote of their peers, won the magic community’s most prestigious award, the 2024 Milbourne Christopher Illusionist Award, placing these two Wisconsin natives among the pantheon of magic’s most-celebrated illusionists, including such past winners as David Copperfield, Doug Henning, Harry Blackstone, Lance Burton, and Siegfried and Roy.

Whereas The Rick Wilcox Magic Theater is nationally recognized as “Wisconsin’s Best” on the Reader’s Digest list of “The 50 Best Family Travel Destinations in Each State,” is the No. 1 rated activity in Wisconsin Dells by TripAdvisor, and continues to be a central part of the tourism industry in Wisconsin, and

Whereas The Rick Wilcox Magic Theater celebrated a remarkable milestone on May 17, 2024: 25 amazing years in business, and will continue to be a central part of the tourism industry in Wisconsin, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That I, Mark Pocan, U.S. Congressman for Wisconsin’s Second District, do hereby express my sincere appreciation to the Rick Wilcox Magic Theater and Rick and Susan Wilcox for their incredible 25 years of bringing magic, comedy, and joy to families in Wisconsin.

CELEBRATING LOS ANGELES BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB’S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club for their 80 years of providing essential services to some of the most vulnerable residents in California’s 34th Congressional District.

Founded in 1944, the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club has nurtured and empowered generations of youth and families, providing them with essential resources and opportunities for growth.

Over the years, the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club has evolved, adapted, and expanded to meet the changing needs of the Northeast Los Angeles community.

Some of the essential services provided by the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club include developmental programming for children, academic support, sports, psycho-educational groups, leadership development, pre-employment preparation, family balance, and gang prevention and intervention.

These programs have resulted in improved math proficiency, improved reading test scores, a lifelong interest in regular exercise leading to an improved health-conscious habit, and priority for proper nutrition for the youth of Northeast Los Angeles.

Additionally, the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club provides services to support the entire family unit through case management, weekly food distribution, positive community events, and emergency and crisis response services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club, and I look forward to seeing all that they do in the next 80 years and beyond.

HONORING HARRODSBURG, KENTUCKY

HON. ANDY BARR
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the citizens of Harrodsburg, Kentucky as they celebrate the 250th anniversary of their founding.

James Harrod and a team of men were sent by Lord Dunmore to Kentucky to survey land promised by the British crown to soldiers who served in the French and Indian War. Harrod was the first to map out a town on June 16, 1774, making Harrod’s Town (later Harrodsburg) the first permanent British settlement west of the Alleghenies and the first city in Kentucky. By 1776, they had established a county court, a county militia, and named James Harrod as a delegate to the Virginia Assembly. A blockhouse was established at Fort Harrod for the protection of settlers. After the Revolutionary War ended, the town grew rapidly and the original log cabins were replaced with brick structures.

Many men from Harrodsburg fought in the war of 1812. After the war, agriculture and education were very important. Bacon College, Greenville Institute for Young Ladies, and the Harrodsburg Female Academy all opened between 1839 and 1847. Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill was founded in 1805 and became very prosperous. The local economy was based on livestock, hemp, wheat, corn, and valuable racehorses. By the middle of the 1800’s, Harrodsburg had been home to three Kentucky governors and one U.S. Ambassador as well as a nationally known resort, Graham Springs.

Like many areas in border states, Harrodsburg was divided by the Civil War and experienced much loss and destruction. Citizens picked up and treated wounded soldiers from both Union and Confederate forces following the Battle of Perryville. After the war, the city rebuilt and prospered once again. The 20th century brought the Dix River Dam, constructed in the 1920’s to provide electricity, and the reservoir, Lake Herrington, became a tourist attraction. A reproduction of Old Fort Harrod was constructed as well as a monument to George Rogers Clark which was dedicated by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934. Shaker Village was restored and became another tourist attraction. There has always been a strong military presence at Harrodsburg, and World War II was no exception. Company D of the 192nd Tank Battalion was stationed in the Philippines in 1941 and included 66 from Harrodsburg. Forced to surrender to the Japanese, more than 7,000 American soldiers died from the brutal Bataan Death March, including 29 Harrodsburg men.

Today the city of Harrodsburg continues as a thriving community with robust agriculture, tourism, and industry. Dedicated leaders from founder James Harrod to today’s Mayor Bob Williams have led the city of Harrodsburg. I am honored to lift up this great American community before the United States Congress and to congratulate them on their 250th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters in support of awarding the Medal of Honor to three Guam natives who served in the Vietnam War.

CALL TO ACTION: SUPPORT MEDAL OF HONOR FOR GUAM VETERANS

As veterans and residents of Guam, we have a unique opportunity to support three of our own who have displayed extraordinary valor in service to our nation. Delegate James Moylan has introduced amendments to the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to authorize the President of the United States to award the Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH) to:

CSM Martin Maglona, U.S. Army Retired
SGM Juan Ogo Blaz, U.S. Army Retired
CSM Martin Manglona, U.S. Army Retired

These three veterans, all of whom served in the Vietnam War, have already been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), the U.S. Army’s second highest honor. However, they have never been given a fair chance at being considered for the MOH, despite their actions mirroring those of other soldiers who have received this prestigious award.

WHY THIS MATTERS

No other veteran from Guam or the Marianas has ever been awarded the MOH.
SGM Blaz and CSM Manglona exemplified bravery that saved the lives of those within their battalion. These veterans endured many indignities due to their ethnic backgrounds yet persevered to serve with distinction.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

We urge all veterans and residents of Guam to sign Senator Rogers’ amendment to support the honor the United States bestows to its brave sons of the Marianas.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. BOB GOOD OF VIRGINIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, June 13, 2024**

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 248, and NAY Roll Call No. 249.

**HONORING PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY**

**SPEECH OF**

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL OF ARKANSAS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, June 11, 2024**

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize multiple testimonials to the character of President George H.W. Bush on what would have been his 100th birthday.

Texas A&M Today’s article entitled, “Remembering the Character of George H.W. Bush” induces remarks from the 41st President’s former Chief of Staff, Jean Becket, and the author of his biography, Jon Meacham.

The article said:

“Anniversaries are about more than just the person being commemorated—they tell us about how we see ourselves at that moment, Pulitzer-Prize winning author and presidential historian Jon Meacham said Wednesday on what would have been President George H.W. Bush’s 100th birthday.

“Speaking to a crowd gathered at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center on the Texas A&M University campus, Meacham said there’s not been a single moment in American history when the country has been more in need of what the 41st President represented than now. During Bush’s remarks in 1990 commemorating the centennial of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, he quoted a motto etched onto a plaque that sat on Eisenhower’s desk, ‘Gently in manner, strong in deed.’

“It’s hard to imagine a better description of Bush,” Meacham said.

“Meacham spoke alongside Jean Becker, Bush’s chief of staff for nearly 25 years, as part of a three-day presidential celebration hosted by the George & Barbara Bush Foundation. In addition to sharing some of their favorite memories about the president, the importance of character and the qualities that defined Bush were the focus of much of their discussion.

“Bush, known for his humility, likely ‘would not approve’ of the amount of attention being paid to him, Becker said. The former president’s reluctance to talk about himself and his legacy was exemplified by an anecdote Becker shared about a visit Bush made to his presidential library and museum in College Station before it opened in 1991.

“This was to walk through the library one last time to point out any changes he wanted made before the opening ‘In the car on the drive back to Houston, he turned to me and said, ‘Jean, I’m going to have a problem with the museum,’ she said. And he said, ‘Jean, it’s too much about me.’

“Meacham said Bush had a similar reaction after he read the former president a draft of his eulogy. The eyes were very attentive. He was listening to every possible ‘let him say this.’

Meacham said I got to the end, and he said, ‘That’s great—awful lot about me.’


“Meacham said Bush’s humility wasn’t an affectation. But he also acknowledged the complications of a man who wanted to serve in a subtle and decent way, but also wanted to be part of the arc of history in the direction he thought it should go.”

“If we overly canonize him, he loses the capacity to teach,” Meacham said, adding that “it’s important to acknowledge that Bush was fallible.

“Bush represented a man who was driven by ambition, but who ultimately put service above self. Meacham said he also warned against ‘overly romanticizing a past in a way that prevents us from rising to the occasion.’

When putting together his new book, ‘The Call To Serve,’ Meacham said he was thinking about what Bush’s legacy means at this time.

“The easy answer is the climate,” he said.

“Here’s this decent, gentlemanly figure who represented a long-ago order. All true. But it was 20 minutes ago—it’s not impossible to recover if we summon the same reserves of character. Because character, as the Greeks taught us, is destiny.”

“Becker, who is also promoting a new book, ‘Character Matters,’” said she’s often pessimistically asked, ‘Where’s the next George Bush?’ This outlook is a mistake, she said.

“The people who think there are no more George Bushes, yeah, there are,” Becker said.

“You just have to vote for them. You all control this. Quit voting for people who don’t have character. You know I’m here, and they’re willing to serve. We just have to follow his example of ‘do what’s right for the country.’ Not what’s right for you, not what’s right for the party, but what’s right for the country.”

“Becker and Meacham’s panel was attended by hundreds of members of the public, as well as members of the Bush family and alumni of his administration. Becker said the former president would have loved that the centennial celebration served as a reunion.

“‘He loved all these people. The party part of it he would love, and seeing everybody, but he definitely would complain to me and Jon, ‘Quit talking about me, talk about other people, Becker said.

“While Becker said Bush hated discussing ‘the L word’—his legacy—the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M ‘is his legacy, and it was really important to him.”

“Becker would be so proud of the Bush School graduates, because they’re doing exactly what he wanted them to do,” she said.

“They’re everywhere—the State Department, particularly, the CIA, city managers. They’re doing everything, and he would be very proud.”
“When it came time to choose a location for his presidential library after Bush left the White House, there was interest from several schools, including the University of Houston. In the end, however, Yaletown University, Becker said. But even though Bush did not attend Texas A&M, the university had ‘his heart,’ she said.

He loved golf. That was his life motto, and he fell in love with A&M the first time he came and gave a speech here,” Becker said. “It was sort of a slam dunk that it would work here, and he loved it up here.”

The “41g100” celebrations continue Thursday with the grand opening of the Marine One 41L1 Locomotive Pavilion, the new 29,000-square-foot building at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library & Museum. The building will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Today Show’s article entitled, “Jenna Bush Hager shares letter to her late ‘Gampy’ George H.W. Bush on his 100th birthday” shared remarks that the former President’s granddaughter had to say about her grandfather.

The article said:

“His gentle, Jenna said. ‘He led with kindness. He wanted to be the type of leader that listened.’

‘Jenna Bush Hager is remembering her late grandfather, the United States’ 41st president, George H.W. Bush, on what would have been his 100th birthday.

‘On June 12, Jenna paid tribute to her late ‘Gampy’ by re-reading to viewers a letter she wrote to him about his impact on her life.

‘Dear Gampy,

We miss you. We miss your letters and emails. We miss you laughing and debating around the dinner table.

We miss your rules: Don’t be afraid to shed a tear when your heart is broken or because a friend is hurting. Nobody likes an overbearing big shot. As you succeed, be kind to a friend in need.

We miss your compassion. We miss your quiet compassion, like when you shaved your head for the son of your secretary who had leukemia.

We miss your decisive leadership. What we know for sure is that our country is greater when we work together, and your lifelong dedication to our country as one of the youngest navy pilots in World War II.

On this day, many of your grandkids—including the youngest navy pilots in World War II.

On this day, many of your great-grandchildren have been his 100th birthday.

President George H.W. Bush, like Jenna, loved putting his feelings down on paper.

‘He wrote us the most beautiful letters when he was in his 70s, 80s, about being too old to serve his country, but was it too late to come home and that that was what brought him the most joy, was to be surrounded by his grandchildren and his family,’ Jenna shared on TODAY.


The Wall Street Journal’s article entitled “The George Bush Century” by James A. Baker III, the former President’s Secretary of State, said:

‘At a time of political dysfunction, the 100th anniversary of President George H.W. Bush’s birth provides an opportunity to examine his leadership traits, which could help America regain its national footing. Those qualities—which made him the best one-term president in U.S. history and one of the best ever—include these:

‘Selflessness. Born into a family with a tradition of public service, Bush put his nation above himself. He did so as the 20-year-old son of an influential East Coast banker who risked his life as a Navy pilot and was shot down over the Pacific during World War II. As president, he repeatedly refused for refusing to thump his chest after the Berlin Wall fell. He reasoned that triumphalism might hinder tense relations with the faltering but still dangerous Soviet Union.

‘Trustworthiness. What started as a wary relationship with Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union’s last leader, developed into a strong bond, Gorbachev cred- ited with improving relations between the countries. The two worked together to reunite Germany, eject Iraq’s troops from Kuwait and negotiate two nuclear arms-reduction treaties.

‘Pragmatism. Bush recognized that savvy responses were often more effective than bold ones. Conservactive in nature, he pre-ferred stability and calm. His decision against marching to Baghdad in 1991 was driven by a pragmatic assessment of potential risks of decisive action, much criticized at the time, proved wise.

‘Respect for experience. Bush often ad-vis-ed young politicians to avoid being like a Dalmatian chasing fire trucks, running every time the bell rings. Instead, he told them to get a job, start a family and do other things that would allow them to build a full life. By the time he became president,

Bush had worked in the Texas oil patch, raised five children to adulthood, and served as a congressman, ambassador to the United Nations, moderate Republican, H.W. Bush, president, George.

Honor DR. JOHN REILLY, JR. IN HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to rec-ognize the accomplishments of John Reilly, Jr., MD, and congratulate him on his upcom-ing retirement. For nearly a decade, Dr. Reilly served as the Dean of the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Vice Chancellor for health affairs at CU Anschutz, where he led the charge in establishing Aurora and Colorado as national leaders in health care and biomedical research.

During his tenure, he elevated CU Anschutz to the top tier of academic medical centers in the nation, expanded programs to serve more people across our state, and recruited leaders who will extend this legacy for decades to

HONORING DR. JOHN REILLY, JR.

IN HIS RETIREMENT

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come. During Dean Reilly's tenure, medical school curriculum and clinical training settings were updated to better prepare medical students for productive and fulfilling careers, medical research for the school of medicine grew by 67 percent, and CU Medicine faculty cared for more Coloradans than any other medical group—serving 727,000 people through 4.2 million patient visits in 2023.

Dr. Reilly's commitment to community service is exemplified by his efforts to strengthen partnerships for those residing in Colorado. Under his guidance, CU Anschutz established the Aurora Wellness Community, a transformative initiative aimed at enhancing access to primary care for underserved populations in north Aurora. The Aurora Wellness Community Center will offer comprehensive health and wellness programming, including child care and a food bank to address the diverse needs of north Aurora. Further, under the leadership of Dr. Reilly, the CU School of Medicine collaborated with Traverse Academy, a school within the Cherry Creek School District, which led to the establishment of the Nation's first mental health treatment facility operated by a school district.

Dean Reilly's contributions to improving health care access, quality, and research will be felt in Colorado and across the country for decades to come. I want to congratulate Dean Reilly again on his upcoming retirement and thank him for his service to our community, Colorado, and our Nation.

CELEBRATING CHICAGO CUBS LEGEND, RYNE SANDBERG

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ryne Sandberg and join the Chicago Cubs in celebrating the dedication of his new statue outside of historic Wrigley Field.

A Hall of Fame second baseman, Mr. Sandberg played 15 seasons with the Chicago Cubs, starting in 1982. By the time Mr. Sandberg retired in 1997, he held the record for most Gold Glove Awards by a second baseman, the most consecutive errorless games by a second baseman and the most home runs by a second baseman. In 2005, Mr. Sandberg was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and had his number 23, retired by the Cubs.

Mr. Sandberg is a living legend and as a Cubs fan I could not be happier that he is receiving a statue here in Illinois' 5th District. Mr. Speaker, please join me and all our colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing Mr. Sandberg's legacy and congratulating him on the unveiling of his statue.

RECOGNIZING WORLD OCEAN DAY

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize World Ocean Day, celebrated annually on June 8th. This day offers a valuable opportunity to celebrate our oceans, which are not only a source of immense beauty and wonder but also a vital component of our U.S. economy. As we commemorate this day, I want to emphasize the significance of fishing communities and the necessity of maintaining abundant ocean resources. They are integral to the economic health and sustainability of fishing communities and our Nation.

The fishing and seafood industries play a significant role in our economy at home in Virginia. In 2022, the Commonwealth of Virginia had 28,729 jobs in the U.S. Seafood Industry, according to the Fisheries Economics of the United States 2022 Report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These jobs resulted in $851,594 in income for Virginians and $3,519,973 in sales, inserting millions of dollars back into our communities.

Fishing communities look different across the United States, but they all depend on healthy ocean ecosystems for their livelihoods. These communities form the backbone of coastal economies, and thriving fisheries help them provide jobs, protect food security, and secure cultural heritage and recreational opportunities for all Americans. The economic impact of the fishing industry is substantial, contributing billions of dollars to the national economy and supporting countless families and businesses.

However, fishing communities face unprecedented challenges on many fronts. Pollution and other environmental threats threaten the health of marine ecosystems and the sustainability of fish stocks, which in turn directly impacts fishing communities and jeopardizes their way of life and economic stability. At the same time, coastal development and the loss of working waterfronts are also making it more difficult for fishing communities to survive.

To secure the future of our fishing communities and the economic vitality of our oceans, we must prioritize fishing communities and the sustainable fisheries that support them. This includes:

- Sustainable Fishing Practices: Implementing management efforts that prevent overfishing and promote the rebuilding of fish populations.
- Habitat Protection: Safeguarding critical marine habitats, such as coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds, which support a diverse range of marine life, including fish.
- Pollution Reduction: Addressing sources of ocean pollution, including plastic waste and chemical runoff, to protect marine ecosystems and the species that inhabit them.
- Adaptability to change: Enhancing the resilience of fisheries and coastal communities through adaptive management strategies.
- Resilient fishing communities: Preserving working waterfronts and improving the ability for fisheries to avoid and recover from disasters.

In recognition of this year's World Ocean Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding our oceans and the communities that depend on them. By working together to conserve marine ecosystems and achieve sustainable fisheries, we can secure a brighter future for our fishing communities and for generations to come.
COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRATERS OF THE MOON

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) Commander, Colonel Ariel Batungbacal, farewell and thank you as she departs command, after serving at Wright-Patterson Air Base for the past four years—first as a NASIC Group Commander and then as the NASIC Wing Commander.

Colonel Batungbacal commissioned in 2001, quickly rising through the ranks to Colonel and, most recently, to the rank of Brigadier General. In other words, through 23 years of dedicated service to her Nation, Colonel Batungbacal has earned a spot in the top two percent of all eligible members who achieve the General Officer rank. An outstanding achievement.

Colonel Batungbacal distinguished herself through her dedicated service to the Department of Defense and her visionary leadership of NASIC, the U.S. Air Force’s Service Intelligence Center. During her command, Colonel Batungbacal led the Center through an unprecedented organizational change, adopting an A-staff structure and realigning squadrons to better support mission execution for the high-end fight.

Colonel Batungbacal elevated NASIC’s analytic ecosystem by accelerating a multi-year digital transformation effort, prioritizing systems and processes that serve to increase information sharing and remove barriers to collaboration. By weaving these transformation efforts into the Center’s near and long-term strategies, she provided the organization with an integrated, measurable path to success. The entire Center has leveraged this effort to accelerate 20 analytic modernization projects, with 245 efforts pending future Center action.

Under her leadership, NASIC led a joint DoD and FBI project concerning a high-profile, high-end fight.

With an intentional focus on workforce development, Colonel Batungbacal repurposed an existing facility to provide internal training opportunities to grow and enhance the careers of her nearly 3,800-member force. Since the building’s reopening in 2023, NASIC has hosted nearly 150 classes, training an excess of approximately 1920 individuals. Instructors are often in-house NASIC employees and specialists in their field, offering unique learning opportunities to enhance their colleagues’ skillsets.

In addition to her impressive accomplishments as Commander, Colonel Batungbacal’s creativity and innovation has shaped the way NASIC is perceived across the Intelligence Community, the Department of Defense, and the state of Ohio. Colonel Batungbacal has left a lasting impression with her creative vision, unifying the mission across the Center and pioneering a recognizable NASIC brand. She will be missed, but I appreciate the lasting efforts she made upon NASIC, Wright-Patterson, and the Dayton community. We wish her the best of luck in her next endeavors at A2/6.

THANKING COLONEL ARIEL BATUNG Bacal FOR HER SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON
OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my esteemed colleagues, Senator Mike Crapo, and Senator James E. Risch, to commemorate a truly remarkable milestone in our Nation’s history—the 100th anniversary of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.

In the vast expanses of the state of Idaho, Craters of the Moon stands as a testament to the unique geological wonders of our planet and the importance of preserving our natural heritage for future generations.

On May 2, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed the proclamation establishing Craters of the Moon as a national monument. Craters of the Moon has a rich history, both geologically and culturally, spanning much further beyond its time as federally managed and protected land. Craters of the Moon offers countless opportunities for hiking, camping, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing, and backcountry travel. Exposed fissures, lava fields, lava tubes, craters, and cinder cones form a strangely beautiful volcanic sea on central Idaho’s Snake River Plain.

The significance of Craters of the Moon extends far beyond its stunning natural beauty. Its central feature is the Great Rift, a 52-mile-long crack in the Earth’s crust. It serves as a living laboratory for scientific research, offering invaluable insights into the processes of volcanic activity and ecosystem development. Its rugged terrain also provides a habitat for a diverse array of plant and animal species, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth.

Additionally, Craters of the Moon holds profound cultural and historical significance for the people of Idaho and the broader United States. For centuries, Native Americans have revered this land as sacred, and its exploration by early pioneers and scientists has helped shape our understanding of the natural world.

Idaho’s abundance of parks, forests, and public lands makes our state a wonderful place to live, work, and play. As we celebrate the centennial of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, let us reaffirm our commitment to preserving and protecting this extraordinary place for future generations. Let us honor the stewardship of those who have worked tirelessly to safeguard its natural and cultural treasures and let us inspire a new generation of Americans to explore, appreciate, and conserve our Nation’s unparalleled natural heritage.

In recognition of this historic milestone, and Craters Centennial Celebration, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and in reaffirming our commitment to preserving our Nation’s natural wonders for the benefit of all.

HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am grateful to honor the remarkable life of Major William Henry Luther, a highly decorated hero of the Vietnam War, who will be laid to rest at the Dallas-Fort Worth Veterans National Cemetery in Dallas, Texas on June 20th. Major Luther, the brother of Second District resident and Publisher of Linc, Inc. community newspapers, Kirk Luther, also leaves behind wife Jackie Mae, daughter Tracey, son Robert, five grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and numerous extended family members and friends. I offer my sympathy to his family.

I include in the RECORD the following obituary for William Henry Luther:

William Henry Luther, a veteran of the war in Vietnam and longtime resident of Edgewood Village, Texas, passed away on December 10, 2023 in his home. Bill, as he was known to most, was born November 7, 1939 to Kirk Charles Luther and Elizabeth (Betty) Jane Luther in Berea, Illinois. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1956. Bill was first deployed to Korea where he served with a medical unit and was there when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

After Korea, Bill was deployed to Vietnam for three combat tours during the 60s. For
his heroic actions as a helicopter pilot fighting in some of the bloodiest battles with the 1st Air Cavalry Division including the TET Offensive and the City of Hue, Khe Sanh, and the invasion of the A Shau Valley, the U.S. Army recognized Bill for his honorable service with a Silver Star (one of the highest honors to be bestowed upon a combat veteran) the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star (1st OLC), the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/DVC 60, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/PALM, Senior Army Aviation Badge, Army Aviator Badge, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Civil Actions Medal (Unit Citation Valley of Death Unit Citation) and the Meritorious Service Medal. Bill was the true definition of a warrior and retired from military service with the rank of Major after 22 years, 5 months and 5 days from Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Bill married Jackie Mae Riddle on July 22, 1967 at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and together they raised two children, Robert and Tracey. After his retirement from military service, Bill joined Defender Industries in Columbia, SC and was promoted to the Senior Operations Manager for the southwestern territory which included Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. During that time he moved his family to Ft. Worth and eventually Edgecliff Village, Texas where he lived until his passing. Bill was an avid golfer and served two terms as an Alderman on the Edgecliff Village City Council.

Bill is survived by his wife Jackie Mae Luther of Fort Worth, TX; his daughter, Tracey Scancella and husband, Jimmy Aguirre; his son, Robert S. Luther and wife, Debra M. Luther; as well as five grandchildren, Jonathan Scancella, Joseph Scancella, Bradley W. Luther, Kristina K. Luther, Kelli M. Luther and one great-grandchild, Theodore W. Luther; his brother, Kirk F. Luther and wife Kathy A. Luther along with 2 nephews, Aaron K. Luther and Nicholas C. Luther and two great-nephews, Jonah Luther and Elijah Luther.

William will be laid to rest with full military honors at Dallas Ft. Worth Veterans National Cemetery on June 20, 2024 at 11:00 am. Remembrances can be made by visiting Wounded Warrior Project at support.woundedwarriorproject.org.

CELEBRATING ROCKY’S PASTIES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate Rocky’s Pasties on their 100-year anniversary. I am extremely grateful to be able to celebrate this incredible milestone with the Rocky’s Pasties family and our community. A small takeout food business specializing in hand made Coney Island style pastries, Rocky’s has been family owned and operated for four generations. For the past 100 years, they have shown their dedication to delivering meals the old-fashioned way while carrying a piece of their ancestors with them. They have shown their commitment to this community by preparing daily meals from scratch, using only the freshest ingredients. Rocky’s Pasties environment is a testament to their 100-year history. Rocky’s Pasties has been described as an “unexpected gem” but if you are a part of this community you know it is no surprise. As we reflect on the past 100 years at Rocky’s they have exceeded the expectations and I know they will continue to do so for the next 100 years to come. I am honored to have such an amazing community in the 7th congressional district, and I look forward to what is to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF O. LOUIS SOTO

HON. DARREN SOTO
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 2024 we lost my father, Lou Soto. He was an amazing dad, loving husband, and joyful grandfather. He was a Navy veteran, computer programmer, as well as a football, baseball and basketball fan. He had a calm, loving, and amiable demeanor, one that inspired peace in others. He had many friends, loved to dance, grill, host BBQs and listen to music.

His story embodied the American Dream. Born in Manati, Puerto Rico, he traveled to the mainland at nine years old. He then served in the Navy as a young man during the Vietnam era. He and my mother, Jean, bought their first home thanks to a VA Loan and attended college thanks to the GI Bill, where he took night classes to finish his degree while working in the day and raising his young family. He worked in computers and information technology for many years. He now leaves behind: his wife Jean, son Lou, grandchildren LJ, Mateo, and Sabrina, and myself as well as many other family members. The imprint he has left on our lives, we will carry with us forever.

He was a Catholic and man of faith. Our family will miss him dearly, knowing he now joins the angels, and is finally at peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I was on the floor but was distracted and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll No. 254.

RECOGNIZING MY CONSTITUENT ADVOCATE, DAVID CHERNACK, FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Constituent Advocate, David Chernack, for his work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota’s Third Congressional District. At the end of April, David departed my office for a new opportunity to serve as the Immigration Consultant Advocate in the Office of Rep. Angie Craig, and I could not be more proud or grateful for his service.

Hailing from California, David came to Minnesota for college at the University of Minnesota. While in college, David got hooked on Minnesota politics and spent time interning for Senator Amy Klobuchar and Governor Tim Walz before graduating and joining our office. The constituents of Minnesota’s Third District were fortunate to be served by David who always went the extra mile to help a constituent in need. David’s ability to treat each individual as if they were his top priority has impressed our entire office. In under a year, he held two job titles- Staff Assistant and Hospitality Director and most recently, Constituent Advocate- and brought intellectual rigor, tireless dedication, and trademark quirkiness to each role. Our fondest memories include his drives to random parking lots to shepherd lost constituents to our office, lunches consisting of three variations of simple carbs with no protein or produce in sight, and expressions of undying gratitude when given even the smallest treat.

The people of Minnesota’s Third Congressional District were lucky to have his dedication and leadership, and he will be dearly missed. However, I’m extraordinarily happy that he will continue to do this work and serve the Nation and the people of Minnesota’s Secora district. I wish David all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for a year of faithful service to this Nation—and many more to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DR. GEORGE EVERETT BARNES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a tenacious and self-motivated leader, the late Dr. George Everett Barnes. Dr. Barnes showed what could be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Dr. George Everett Barnes was born in Collins, MS, on August 10, 1941. He was the youngest of nine siblings born to Elmer and Lora Barnes. During the course of his life, his parents stressed the importance of God, family, education, and hard work. He would find his calling as a devoted husband, father, educator, and servant. These values are evidenced by the fact that all nine siblings attended and graduated from Jackson State University. They went on to establish the Barnes Family Endowed Scholarship Fund to aid students majoring in education.

Dr. Barnes graduated from Carver Central High School in Collins and went on to advance his education at Jackson State University (BS, Mathematics), Louisiana State University (MA, Mathematics), Mississippi State University (EdS, Community College Education), and the University of Southern Mississippi (PhD, Educational Administration). He furthered his studies at the University of Illinois and the University of Virginia.

While attending Jackson State University, he met his wife, Doris. They married in June 1963 and celebrated their 61st anniversary.
I am honored to commemorate P.A.S.O. on their 15th Anniversary.

Congratulations (Felicidades!).

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT HARRY MARKS, III

HON. DONALD NORCROSS
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Staff Sergeant Harry Marks, III, Hometown Hero.

Born in Greenfield, Indiana, Staff Sergeant Harry Marks, III has been an invaluable and dedicated member of the Borough of Bellmawr since November 1984 alongside his wife, Barbara.

Staff Sergeant Marks enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 17 years old where he began basic training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky until he reached 18 years old. He then relocated to Fort Dix, New Jersey where he received AIT training as a Gas and Diesel Mechanic before leaving for Indian Town Gap in Pennsylvania, where he awaited orders for Vietnam. In 1971, he was stationed outside of Inchon, Korea where he served for 13 months at the Nike Herc Missile Site Staff Sergeant Marks returned to the United States as a part of the Mobile Calvary Unit also recognized as the “Armored Calvary”. Prior to his deployment to Kaiserslautern, Germany, he was stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia. In 1974, Staff Sergeant Harry Marks was deployed with the 43rd maintenance battalion and while in Germany, he was promoted and transferred to the 34th Signal Battalion B Company where he remained until 1981.

Following his active-duty service, Staff Sergeant Harry Marks became a life-member of the VFW Crescent Park Post 9563 in Bellmawr, New Jersey and served as Commander from 2018 to 2021. Staff Sergeant Harry Marks has served as the elected Junior and Senior Vice commander of VFW District 7 and presently serves as Commander of both District 7 and Crescent Park Post 9563.

Staff Sergeant Harry Marks is a two-time recipient of the Good Conduct Medal and expert Badge for M16, a recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon.

Today, he continues to support the local Vineland Veteran Hospital, local fundraisers, and is an active participant in VFW Memorial Day, 4th of July events, and the VFW State convention.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Staff Sergeant Harry Marks, III of the Borough of Bellmawr New Jersey, a dedicated resident who has honorably served both his community and country.
Evapco’s expansion in Madera County has not only created more jobs in the congressional district that I represent but is also a testament to my constituents’ dedication and hard work. It also has bolstered Evapco’s production capabilities and will help it meet growing demand for advanced cooling solutions in our community, the Central Valley of California, and beyond.

My constituents enjoy working for Evapco as it follows the vision of “one global team, united to be universally recognized as the superior provider of a full spectrum of heat transfer solutions.” An Evapco team has enabled its employees—my constituents—to excel. It is a team their employees and customers alike can count on for a lifetime.

I commend Evapco with a congrats to their employees for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to leading their industry.

WELCOME PARKER HANNAH GRISHAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Preston and Alyssa Grisham, of West Columbia, South Carolina, on the birth of their new baby daughter. Parker Hannah Grisham was born on June 6, 2024, at 11:44 a.m., weighing 7 pounds and 7 ounces at Lexington Medical Center, West Columbia. She has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by her parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Parker is also blessed with three wonderful grandparents, Mattie Grisham, Cindy Greenberg, and Todd Douty. Her birth is a blessing to all of us. Parker is also blessed with three wonderful grandparents, Mattie Grisham, Cindy Greenberg, and Todd Douty. Her birth is a blessing to all of us.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DETECTIVE PAUL DIGIACOMO—JUNE 26, 2024

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD the following Proclamation honoring the retirement of Detective Paul DiGiacomo:

Whereas: In 1999, Detective DiGiacomo assumed the role of Sergeant-at-Arms for the DEA, a position he held with distinction until his promotion to Detective, second grade, by the NYPD in December 2001, in recognition of his exemplary service in an extensive undercover operation related to the homicide of a Queens Police Officer.

Whereas: Detective DiGiacomo’s leadership within the DEA continues to evolve as he was elected to successive positions on the Executive Board, culminating in his appointment as President in January 2020, where he now leads the union in navigating challenges ranging from collective bargaining to legislative advocacy amidst a complex socio-political landscape. DiGiacomo spearheads all union activity, including collective bargaining, political activities, overseeing the health and welfare funds, the Annuity Fund, and the union’s not-for-profit charity, the DEA Widows’ and Children’s Fund. The union also engages in a wide variety of internal and external public relations ventures and fraternal functions.

Whereas: Under Detective DiGiacomo’s stewardship, the DEA remains steadfast in its mission to protect the rights and welfare of its members, advocating against detrimental policies such as “bail reform” and spearheading initiatives like the legislation named after Detective Brian Simonsen aimed at combating cellphone theft.

Whereas: Despite facing unprecedented challenges, including the COVID–19 pandemic, natural disasters, and civil unrest, Detective DiGiacomo remains resolute in his commitment to advancing the interests of NYPD Detectives with unwavering solidarity and dedication.

It is with great admiration and gratitude that we recognize Detective Paul DiGiacomo for his exceptional leadership and tireless advocacy on behalf of the dedicated men and women of the New York Police Department.

RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF EVAPCO, INC. IN MADERA COUNTY

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the momentous occasion of Evapco’s 45th anniversary and the significant completion of the Sierra building expansion in 2024.

Evapco is a global industry-leading manufacturing company with global resources and solutions for worldwide heat transfer applications, it is employee owned, and was founded in the United States. Evapco launched its second U.S. manufacturing company in Madera, California, in 1979, and now employs more than 234 individuals.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL BRET DAUGHERTY

HON. MARYLIN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Bret Daugherty, who will retire at the end of this month from the Washington National Guard, after 44 years of service protecting the great state of Washington and our nation.

Major General Daugherty began his military service in 1980, serving nine years on Active Duty in the Army. After transitioning to the Army National Guard, he rose to the rank of Adjutant General and became the longest-serving National Guard leader in the United States.

At the height of the COVID–19 pandemic, Major General Daugherty navigated unprecedented emergencies across the state of Washington with diligence. Whether he was facilitating access to vaccinations and masks, responding to some of our state’s worst natural disasters, or ensuring the security of our national elections, he completed these duties with unflagging resiliency.

Major General Daugherty’s accomplishments also laid the groundwork for an improved collaborative environment that Washingtonians benefit from today. When I had the honor of meeting with him in 2021, I was particularly inspired by his dedication to public service and commitment to supporting the members of Washington’s National Guard. His mindfulness of the future of our nation, and care for the personnel who serve it, are clear in both his words and actions.

I commend Major General Daugherty on his decades of service to Washingtonians and the Guard. Congratulations on his retirement and may he enjoy this next chapter.